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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0055

Comment submitted by David Bernard, Coastal Canoeists

Submitter Information

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Organization: Coastal Canoeists

General Comment

Coastal Canoeists (coastals.org) supports clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and all its tributaries. As members of a recreational canoe and kayak club based in Virginia, the quality of Chesapeake Bay waters is particularly important to us. We also support measures that protect the scenic quality of the waters we paddle and their ability to sustain wildlife.

To that end, we have asked that livestock fencing be a required practice, and that 35 foot forested buffers be established and maintained on all perennial streams, including those later developed. We also support mandating effective Best Management Practices for all farms receiving manure or sludge.

We would like to prohibit new construction on the 100 year floodplain or within 100 feet of a perennial stream or within 25 feet of an intermittent stream. These measures would

protect property investment as well as water quality.

Not only is clear clean water more enjoyable to paddle in, it is also more healthy. Paddlers can swim or flip and roll and there have been many cases of infections coming from water contact that could be minimized if the Chesapeake Bay TMDL is actually put in place.

If Virginia does not enact strong measures to stop non-point pollution from the above sources we want EPA to immediately take steps to tighten regulated point sources so as to not let water cleanup get behind schedule.

We know the American Canoe Association sued EPA 11 years ago to force a water cleanup in Virginia. That case was won by ACA and failure to clean Virginia waters is not an option. Let us get on with the job.